

Student Government Association
Assembly Meeting Minutes
Emergency Meeting
April 4, 2009

Executive Members Present: Student Body President Mason, Student Body Vice President Flaherty, Student Body Executive Director Bixby, Secretary of Student Fees Cahanin, Secretary of Public Relations Dogic, Secretary of Programming Zerfas, Secretary of Diversity Affairs Cail, Secretary of Governmental Relations Yancey, Secretary of Information Technology Tortoriello

Assembly Members Present: President of the Assembly Spialek, Vice President of the Assembly Krug, Secretary of the Assembly Sullivan, Parliamentarian Lund, Senator Davis, Senator Miller, Senator Spiek, Senator Merth, Senator Thornton, Senator Fettner, Senator Carnahan, Senator Abdalla, Senator Hochhauser, Senator Dumelle, Senator Long, Senator Owens, Senator Colaric

Ex-Officios Present: APAC, ALAS, BSU, ARH, Student Trustee Bagnuolo

I. Roll Call

II. Action Items

A. BRC.

1. Mason—I apologize for the meeting. Moves to approve the BRC recommendations. Spiek seconds.
2. Debate:
 - a) Krug—attention to senators that there was feedback. Not in favor of money to Vidette, student leaders. Keep that in mind.
 - b) Merth—I was on BRC. We prioritize it, and we put student leader raises at the bottom. But the administrator said we should. SGA hasn't had a raise in 5 years.
 - c) Flaherty—Vidette is student paper, independent funds, more student based articles.
 - d) Bagnuolo—been on BRC twice. Vidette was huge issue. It came to the floor. It was not a power of the BRC to tell them what to put in their newspaper. We can suggest articles, but not tell them what to do. They wanted \$10,000 and we gave them \$3,000. We also suggested it becoming a 3-day paper. Student leader salaries is SGA salaries. I was the advocate for that. The numbers that were crunched showed that the number of hours comes to less than minimum wage. Fair wage for student leaders.
 - e) Cahanin—Geno kind of covered everything. Vidette usually gets \$10,000. 5 years ago they got \$40,000. We gave them \$3,000 to see what they would do with it. It is not all that much when they used to get \$40,000. Geno covered the \$3,000 for SGA.
 - f) Abdalla—I didn't sit on BRC. I urge you to vote no for Vidette and student leadership raises. Counterintuitive for us to funnel money to ourselves. Collegiate Readership Program was to promote literacy and would have gotten more money than the Vidette.
 - g) Cahanin—With regards to CRP it is separate thing. Readership between those two. \$3,000 isn't that much money when it keeps them afloat. A lot of people pick up the Vidette and we wanted to show that students like it by keeping it running.
 - h) Bagnuolo—In response to Abdalla, CRP was not just to promote literacy, but to get students aware of what was going on. Vidette gives local news. We were hoping to see them become more modernized. They are having problems paying for printing. Online would cut costs.

- i) Thornton—I urge you to put yourself in shoes of constituents because we are voting for them.
- j) Cahanin—They are working on completely revamping website to make it a better newspaper.
- k) Carnahan—Point of Information--Are we able to make adjustments? *Yes*. Strike \$3,000 for SGA.
 - a. Cahanin—Don't accept.
 - b. Hostile amendment.
 - i. Carnahan—no need to pay us anymore.
 - ii. Cahanin—based on numbers we are getting paid less than minimum wage. Wendy Bates realizes that we put in more hours and we work hard at getting things accomplished for students. That is why she suggested this.
 - iii. Spiek—Committee sat down for an entire day about what we are talking about right now. We've went through all logistics. We went through all of the arguments for and against.
 - iv. Sullivan—I just wanted senators to be aware of Illinois State legislation that was passed and becomes effective this July. Students workers are required to be paid minimum wage. And although we are paid on a stipend, I think that we should be paid equally as our peer student workers.
 - v. Cail—other student governments don't get paid. Ex-officios don't get paid either. It's a Catch 22.
 - vi. Bagnuolo—issue of SGA position is a job or a passion. Some institutions have a tuition waiver for their SGA members. Student leaders might not go to SGA because they have to work another job. I'm not trying to say that this is your job, but it is. Money shouldn't motivate, but it does come into play.
 - vii. Mason—urge to vote no for the amendment. This was a last priority, but Wendy was able to make it work this year.
 - viii. Flaherty—Call to question. Carnahan--object
 - ix. Abdalla—In response to Bagnuolo, \$3,000 isn't a whole lot of money, but that would double Vidette (should money be allocated there).
 - x. Flaherty- moves to previous question; Mason seconds
 - xi. Vote on hostile amend: 10-5 no. Amendment does not pass.
 - c. Merth—I sat on it. 4 members sat on it. I came into asking for a psychiatric nurse. SGA isn't even pushing it, it was Wendy Bates. Met with health services. We put a lot of work in.
 - d. Cahanin—friendly amendment—“student leader salaries to” “ the SGA salaries”
 - e. Bagnuolo—after watching this discussion the students said that \$3,000 for the WHOLE thing, not per person. If this passes, then it is a commitment for future SGA's to be transparent.
 - f. Abdalla—Point of information--Is there a deadline? Could we push this back to get more constituent feedback?
 - g. Maons---point of clarification—this needs to be done now because it will help determine Financial aid packages for next year.
 - h. Krug—The feedback from students was confused. They didn't quite understand everything.

- i. Lund—constituent’s contact that I received was very critical of the student leader phrase, because they didn’t understand who it was going for. Vote yes.
- j. Abdalla—vote no for the change.
- k. Mason—We are not misleading constituents. Vote yes. Move to vote; Caharin seconds. 10-3 (hand vote)
- l. Vote to approve recommendation: Spialek calls division. Blind ballot. Mason roll call; Abdalla seconds.
 - i. Yeses (to approve): Krug, Sullivan, Miller, Merth, Spiek, Fettner, Lund, Hochhauser, Dumelle, Colaric.
 - ii. No’s (to disapprove): Spialek, Abdalla, Thornton, Carnahan, Owens.
 - iii. Passes 10-5. BRC recommendations will be sent on as initially planned.

III. Adjournment

- A. Spialek moves to adjourn; Hochhauser seconds.